

North Cotswold Foodbank

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2025

Message from Kevin

Christmas should be a time of joy and celebration, but this winter too many people will be struggling just to get by. No one wishes for a food parcel at Christmas. But thousands of people across the country will need one.



Winter is always the busiest season for food banks as the rising costs of essentials – such as food, electricity and rent – push more families to the brink. We are already starting to see more families needing additional support: at this time of year, food banks play a vital role in ensuring that people who cannot afford the essentials can still get by.

Almost three quarters of a million (740,000) emergency food parcels were distributed last winter between December 2024 and February 2025 to people across the UK – a 40% increase compared to pre-pandemic levels five years ago.

When someone turns to a food bank, it's because they've run out of options. Exhausted and isolated, they don't have enough money to live on. We can offer an emergency food parcel, along with a listening ear, vital advice and support, and hope for the future.

So we want to say a big "thank you" to all our supporters who have helped to raise money or donated food so that we can be there for everyone who needs help this festive season. Thank you for standing with us and helping to ensure no one faces hunger alone this winter.

*Kevin Carden
Foodbank Manager*

A much-needed step

The chancellor's decision in the recent budget to remove the two-child benefit limit in full is warmly welcomed and will protect hundreds of thousands of children from growing up facing hunger and hardship.

Modelling by Trussell found that removing the two-child limit is one of the most effective changes the UK government can make in terms of reducing the number of children facing hunger and hardship: removing it in full is expected to result in a 15% decrease in the number of children expected to face hunger and hardship.

Helen Barnard, Director of Policy at Trussell said: "Trussell is delighted to see the chancellor take this bold step. She has listened to the families and food banks across the UK who have been imploring her to act."

"The cruel two-child limit has driven countless families into hardship, forced to turn to food banks to survive. Today's announcement will help



to ensure all our children have the best possible start in life. This move will pull 470,000 children out of severe hunger and hardship by 2027 and ease pressure on food banks throughout the UK."

"The government has built on positive steps in strengthening support for people facing severe hunger and hardship. But this cannot be the end. Food bank need remains well above levels five years ago and many people are still struggling to afford the essentials. We need more bold choices to transform lives across our communities."

Lion Inn team leap into action for North Cotswold Foodbank

Staff at The Lion Inn in Winchcombe have leapt into action to raise money for North Cotswold Foodbank.

The team at the pub in North Street kicked off their community week in November with a coffee and cake sale, organised a quiz night and a family fun afternoon, and drew to a fabulous finish with a prize draw and raffle.

Team member Karyn Ballinger, along with managers Alex Davenport Jones and his wife Sally, couldn't believe it when the final amount was totted up.

"Our target was £500 so we were overwhelmed when we raised £3,235 along with hundreds of food donations! It was incredible how much support we got – from the team at The Lion, our regulars, the public, the senior managers at Butcombe Brewery, from everyone," said Karyn. "When I take on a challenge, I push it. Managers Alex and Sally allowed us to run with it, and it was



determination and passion that got us through to the finish."

North Cotswold Foodbank Manager, Kevin Carden, was delighted. "The Lion Inn team have done a brilliant job," he said. "The energy and determination they've put into the whole week is mind-blowing. This kind of community support is hugely important. People might think there's no need for a food bank in the Cotswolds, but the truth is very different. Just because you don't see it, doesn't mean that poverty and hardship isn't there."

StayCotswold brings home the goods with a jolly trolley dash

Cotswold-based holiday lettings firm, [StayCotswold](#), delivered a fantastic supply of essentials to North Cotswold Foodbank after a supermarket Trolley Dash at Tesco in Stow where their trolley was full to overflowing.

Following their race around the store, members of the team dashed to our warehouse in Guiting Power to deposit a very generous donation of 95kg.

Tracy Archer, owner director at StayCotswold, said: "The team really got into the Christmas spirit choosing items to help those in need in the local community. We're always looking for ways to give back and the food bank is a hugely important charity for many local families. Hopefully more local businesses can look to



support this wonderful charity and its hard-working volunteers."

Kevin Carden, Manager of North Cotswold Foodbank, said: "We're incredibly grateful to StayCotswold for their efforts. They entered into the spirit of giving which is what the food bank is all about. Their generosity is much appreciated."

Donate food

We always welcome non-perishable food and hygiene and cleaning products. The items we need change regularly, so please check the list on our website to see the latest shortages.

<https://northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

You can take your donations to the store in Guiting Power, which is open on Tuesdays from 10.00 - 12.00.

You can also take donations to our food bank centres whilst they are open. For a list of our centres and opening hours, visit our website at <https://northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk/locations>

There are also collection points in the following locations:

Post office and One Stop shop, Chipping Campden

Bishops Cleeve Parish Council Office, GL52 8LR (Monday-Friday 9.00am-12.00pm)

White House Surgery, Moreton, opposite the North Cotswold Hospital

Tesco in Stow and Bishops Cleeve

Co-op in Bourton, Moreton, Winchcombe and Bishops Cleeve

Coventry Building Society, Winchcombe

Please note that supermarket collection points are for in-store purchases only.

Details of how to donate money can be found on our website here: northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/

Contact details

Store:

North Cotswold Foodbank
Unit 2, Glebe Farm Buildings
Guiting Power
Cheltenham GL54 5TZ

Tel: 07879 375562

Email: info@northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk
Website: northcotswold.foodbank.org.uk

Follow us



Keep in touch with us on social media:

via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthCotswoldFoodbank>
via Instagram: www.instagram.com/Northcotswoldfoodbank

Thanks a million



We'd like to send a huge Thank you to the hundreds of shoppers who donated food during the Tesco Winter Food Collection at

the end of November.

We'd also like to thank Tesco for holding the event every year to support local food banks. The three-day collection period makes a huge difference to our supplies and means that we can do our best to ensure that no one goes without at Christmas.

This year, the total collected at stores in Stow and Bishop's Cleeve was a whopping 1,756kg of essentials, ranging from mince pies and baked beans to washing up liquid.

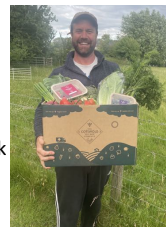
Thank you to everyone who donated: we couldn't do it without the generosity and kindness of our local community.

We'd also like to thank the 57 local schools, churches and other groups for their donations during Harvest Festival. A combined total weight of just over 4,000kg is the highest amount of donations we have ever received for Harvest Festival!

Thank you, too, to everyone at the music festival *Paxfest* this summer. We were fortunate to be one of their chosen charities for this year and were delighted to receive their donation of nearly £3000!

And thanks go to Betty Mansion and her team who held a brilliant Tabletop Sale at Blockley Church in the summer and raised over £800 for us. You really are the Tops!

Thank you, too, to Cotswold Veg Box boss Alex Thompson who tackled the monster challenge of the Loch Ness Marathon in September. Having not run further than 5k since lockdown, Alex decided that to give him the extra motivation he needed to get the long training runs in, he was going to raise funds for North Cotswold Foodbank.



"We have delivered thousands of food packages to families for the North Cotswold Foodbank and have seen what a difference the charity makes to people who have very little so I knew it was a good cause," said Alex, who raised just under £1000 for us.



And a big Thank you to everyone at Bourton Road Runners. Each year the club donates profits from races they organise to local and national

charities and North Cotswold Foodbank was one of the charities selected by club members this year, receiving a cheque for £900.

Finally, a huge Thank you to volunteer Jonathan Brown, who stood down from our board of Trustees at the end of November. Jonathan has been a dedicated and reliable volunteer for the past seven years and will be sorely missed. Jonathan has been a great support to our team during this time, particularly during Covid when he regularly helped at the warehouse. We all wish him well and thank him for everything he has done for North Cotswold Foodbank.